

the Shoulder-blades, which resembled those of Sheep. [See an Article in the *Scots Magazine* for October 1748. printed at *Edinburgh* in 8vo.] In a Letter to me, he adds, that probably this was a [Pelagian or] Ocean Fish, wandring by chance into the Frith of *Forth*; and, by the Tide ebbing, being left upon a considerable Shoal, or flat Sand, near *Leith*, was discover'd from Land in a State of Distress; where-upon some Fishermen plunged into the Sea, and with a Net surrounded it, and brought it to Shore.

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XXI. *A Letter from John Burton M. D. to C. Mortimer M. D. & Secr. R. S. concerning the Extirpation of an Excrecence from the Womb.*

*SIR,*

*Read July 5. 1750.* **I**HAVE at last got a Drawing of an Excrecence \* growing from the Inside of the *Os Tincæ* on the right Side; which I herewith send you, (see TAB. I. Fig. 6.) along with as full and perfect an Account of the Case as I can.

The Wife of one *Chapman*, a Whitesmith, at *Selby*, ten Miles off, upwards of seven Years ago lay in of her last Child, and had a tolerable easy Labour: Soon after which, she had what she called the *Fluor albus*, that continued ever since, and increased upon her; insomuch that she says, she has sometimes

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\* It is exactly the Dimensions of the Original, which weighed 5 Ounces and a half. That Part below the pricked Line appeared out of the *Vagina*; that above reach'd from the *Labia* to the *Os Uteri*.

sometimes had such a Discharge, as to wet the Place she sat upon thro' all her Petticoats, &c.

For some Months before we were concerned for her, she began to complain of a Pain and Weight in the *Uterus*; which increased as the Substance grew in Bulk; and at last the Excrecence was so large as to appear outwards, and then it grew very fast.

The Patient consulted her Midwife, who thought the Womb had come out; but was so prudent as not to do any thing; and desired they would call in better Advice. Accordingly they sent for Mr. Fell, an eminent Man-midwife and Surgeon in this City; who, not having met with a Case like that, desir'd me also to go and see her; which was in December last (1749). The Substance not only fill'd, but extend'd, the Entrance into the *Vagina*. I introduced a Finger into the Passage, and soon found the Excrecence to be less in Bulk there than what appear'd without the Body; and to be in Shape as you see in the Drawing. I follow'd the Substance till I reach'd the *Os Uteri*, which I found chiefly fill'd up, with the Neck or smallest Part of this Substance, leaving only a small Part of the *Os Tincæ* to be perceived on the left Side, obliquely towards the Back. I tried to penetrate the *Os Tincæ* with the End of my Finger, but could not; however, I so far open'd it, as to let out a sort of bloody *Ichor*, which was a little offensive in Smell.

I asked her, if, when her Discharges were so large as to wet her Seat, they differ'd in Smell from those which came in less Quantities; and if they smelted something like what then came from her when I searched her, which she answer'd in the Affirmative: From whence I concluded she had an Ul-

cer just within the *Os Uteri*, from the Edge of which this *Fungus* or Excrecence grew. The Patient complain'd of Pain in the *Uterus* and Back, was very faint, and frequently was provoked to vomit, with a feeble Pulse, and sometimes Sweat.

Upon Consultation, we thought proper to tie a Ligature as high up within the *Vagina* as the Surgeon could reach: Which being done, and some internal Medicines being order'd, we return'd home; and in two or three Days we went again, but found no great Alteration as to the uterine Complaint; except that the Part below the Ligature was somewhat more livid, and the fetid Smell was much greater, and very like that of a confirmed running Cancer: And as the Matter was somewhat confin'd in the Passage, I order'd them to wash the *Vagina* by an Injection made of the common emollient Decoction, with *Mel Rosarum* and a little *Tinct. Myrrhae*. This was frequently done; by which the Smell was less offensive; and two Days after the Excrecence dropp'd off at the Ligature.

The Patient has since, in part, recover'd her Strength; tho' she is not in a good State of Health, and her *Fluor albus*, as she calls it, is still troublesome to her.

This was the last Account I have had of her. The Excrecence was very solid, of a dark liver Colour, and, whilst adhering to the *Uterus*, was quite insensible. When cut in two, it resembled the solid Substance that is taken out of Cancers. I am,

*S I R,*

*York, March 28,*  
1750.

*Your very humble Servant,*

*John Burton.*

July 5, 1750. the SOCIETY adjourned to Oct. 25

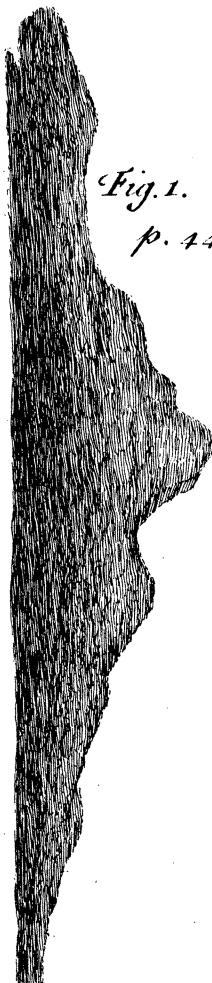


Fig. 1.  
p. 443.

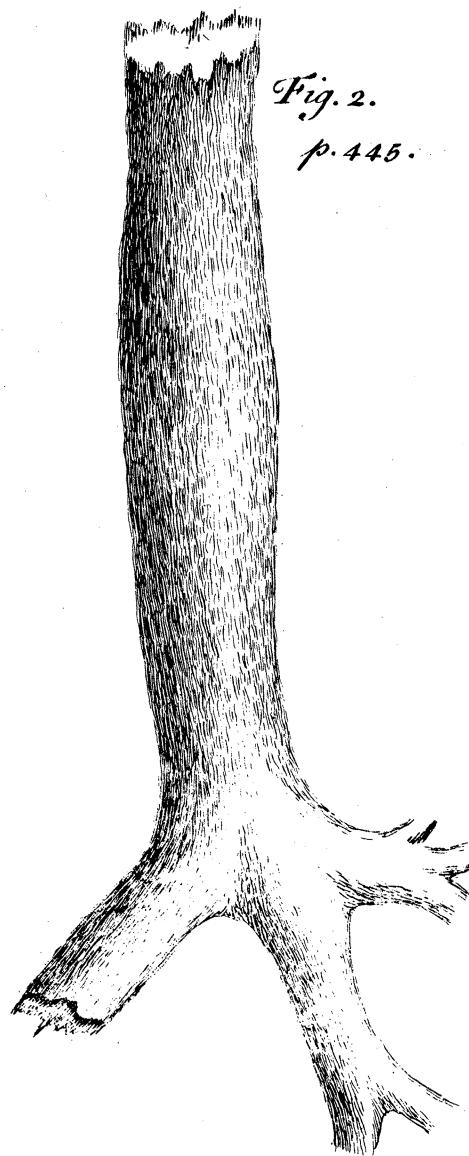


Fig. 2.  
p. 445.

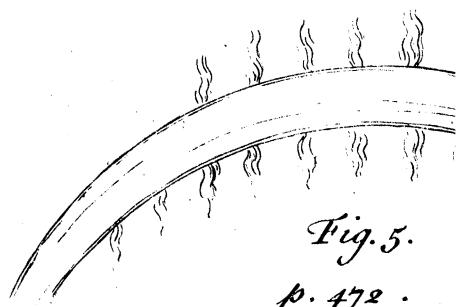


Fig. 5.  
p. 472.



Fig. 3.  
p. 456.

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Fig. 4.  
p. 458.

*Philos. Trans.* N<sup>o</sup> 495. TAB. I.

